

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Voice of America

DATE DISTR. 14 Apr 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, BY THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR DISSEMINATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1. Voice of America broadcasts are jammed so badly that many of the programs cannot be received; transmission on the 251 m band (medium ways) is jammed constantly. Because of this jamming I was unable to listen to either "America Calling Czechoslovakia" or "Report from America." It should be remembered that most Czechs do not have modern radio sets and therefore cannot receive shortwave transmissions during the day, or until about 2000 hours.
2. I believe that news items were well chosen and the presentation of the news by the announcers and newscasters was quite good. I do think, however, that more attention should be devoted to the accuracy of the individual news items, particularly those originating in, or pertaining to, Czechoslovakia. I am sure that such items arouse the greatest response among the Czechs.
3. I think that the US presidential campaigns and elections will be of great interest in Czechoslovakia. The viewpoints and platforms of the various candidates regarding the USSR and, indirectly the CSR, should be emphasized.
4. Voice of America should give the greatest possible attention to the current purges in the CSR and within the Communist Party; this theme will be current and effective for some

X CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION									
STATE	EV	NAVY	X	SEC	X	DISTRIBUTION			
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X				

SECRET

-2-

time to come. Since a large number of Czechs are affected by these purges, either directly or indirectly, a firm basis of confidence and a following of devoted listeners can be developed. Emphasis on purges will greatly damage the Communist Party within the CSR. VOA should be sure to give the background of each person purged, including the position he held. This should apply to individuals in minor positions as well as those in the more important ones. The facts leading up to the purge should be clearly stated. For example, a serious mistake in this connection would be to say of Bedrich Geminder, that he was "former party secretary general". Information on the background, job, etc must be accurate. Anything but facts would destroy the confidence of the listeners who are dependent almost entirely on foreign news sources concerning purges within their own country.

5. To capture and hold the interest of the younger generation in Czechoslovakia, I suggest that the following points might well be covered by VOA:
 - (a) opportunities for American youth just out of school, such as complete freedom to study any subject or profession, and free choice of profession or vocation;
 - (b) comparative differences between wages and prices (cost of living) in the USA and the CSR. This subject has almost unlimited possibilities for expansion which have been unexploited;
 - (c) freedom of opinions and expression of ideas;
 - (d) freedom of movement and travel.

-end-

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION